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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 17, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McDERMOTT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, dynamic in power, never absent or diminished, inspire the Members of the House of Representatives with transcending vision and far-reaching goals. While focused on the honest issues facing Your people and searching for response in solid national policies, keep them as practical as most of America's people.

With Your help, enlighten them to assess accurately our Nation's resources, and yet be honest enough to admit our limitations. Prevent them from enabling dysfunctional endeavors or from being distracted by unreal anxieties.

Shape this assembly, Lord, into a body of diverse ideas, which can solve any problem with a variety of approaches, until a fitting solution can be brought to bear lasting goodness for Your people.

This we ask, calling upon Your almighty name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETRI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY TONY SNOW

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week Tony Snow stepped down as White House press secretary. Mr. Snow, a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina, has served the President and his Nation with distinction, and I wish to thank him for his hard work and dedication.

As a speech writer in the first Bush administration and as a television and radio personality, Tony established a reputation for common sense and measured thinking. As White House press secretary, he has led a professional team of communications personnel during a time when our country faces many difficult challenges. President Bush could not have asked for a stronger spokesperson. His forthright and genuine approach to his job has earned Tony Snow the respect and admiration of his peers in the political arena as well as the media. We wish him and his family much health and happiness as they embark upon the next chapter of their lives.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF MERLIN AND TERESA HARN

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, it was a close call on September 1 in the town of Menasha, Wisconsin. Merlin Harn and his wife Teresa were in their car when they noticed two boys, one apparently age 5 and the other under 2, walking on some railroad tracks.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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